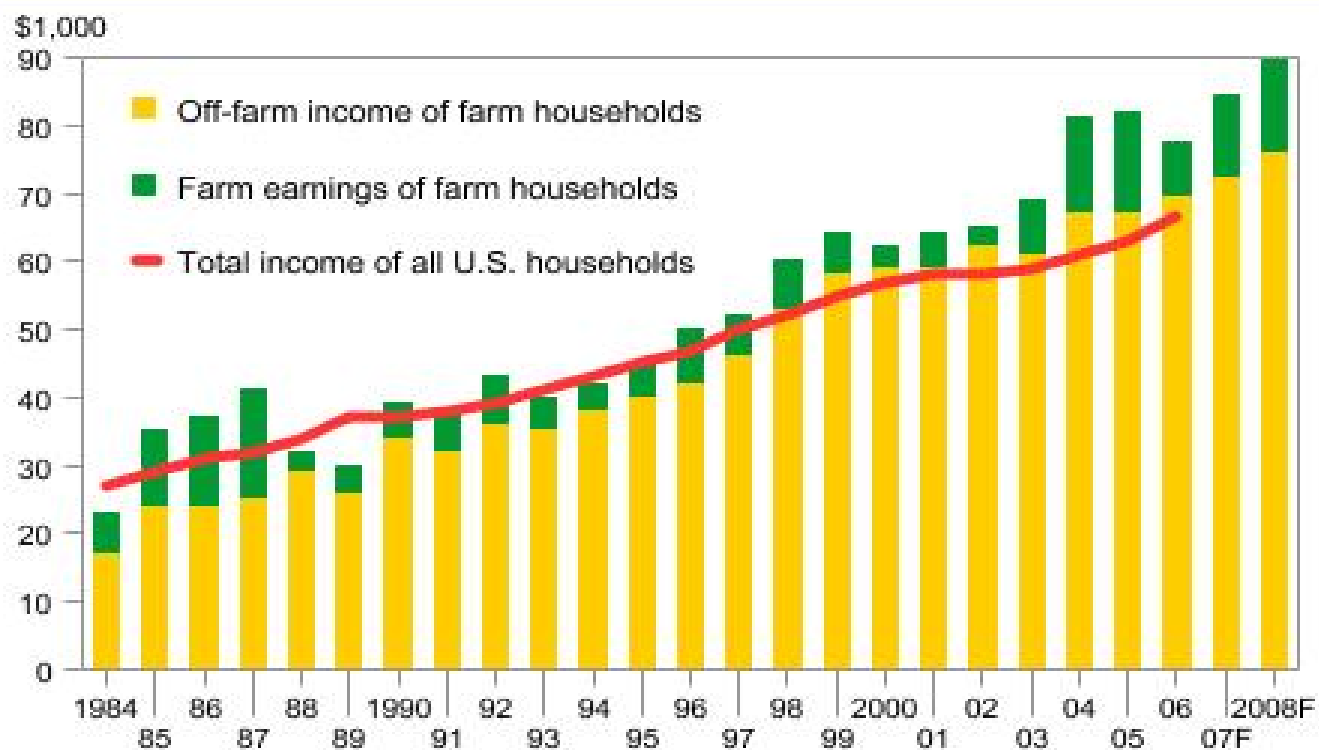


Shifting Resource Allocations and Returns: Implications for Farm Operator Households

**Mary Ahearn and Robert Green,
Economic Research Service, USDA**
Agricultural Outlook Forum,
Feb. 21-22, 2008, Arlington, VA

Average farm operator household income by source compared to all U.S. household income, 1984-2008f

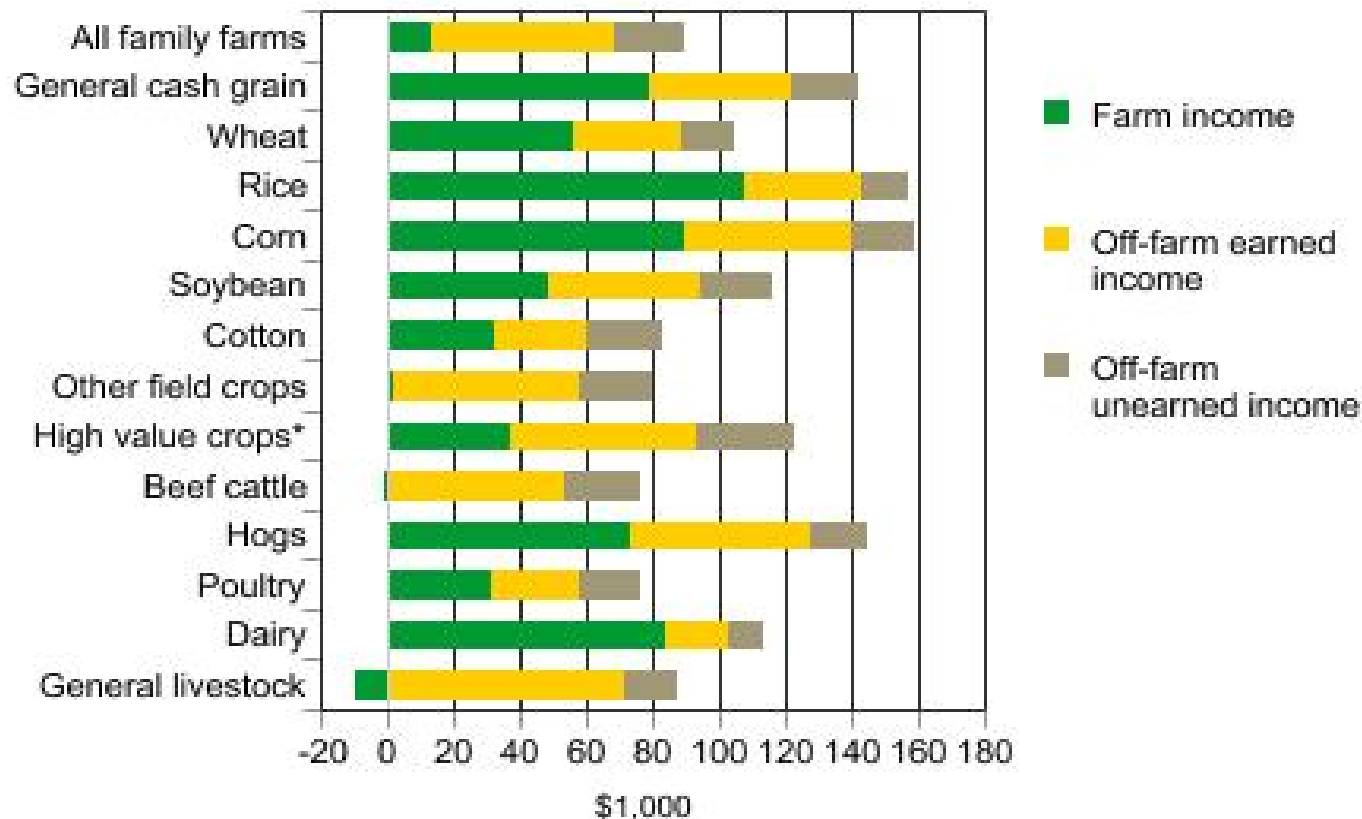


F = Forecast.

Source: Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Economic Research Service, USDA.



Household income varies by commodity specialization, 2008

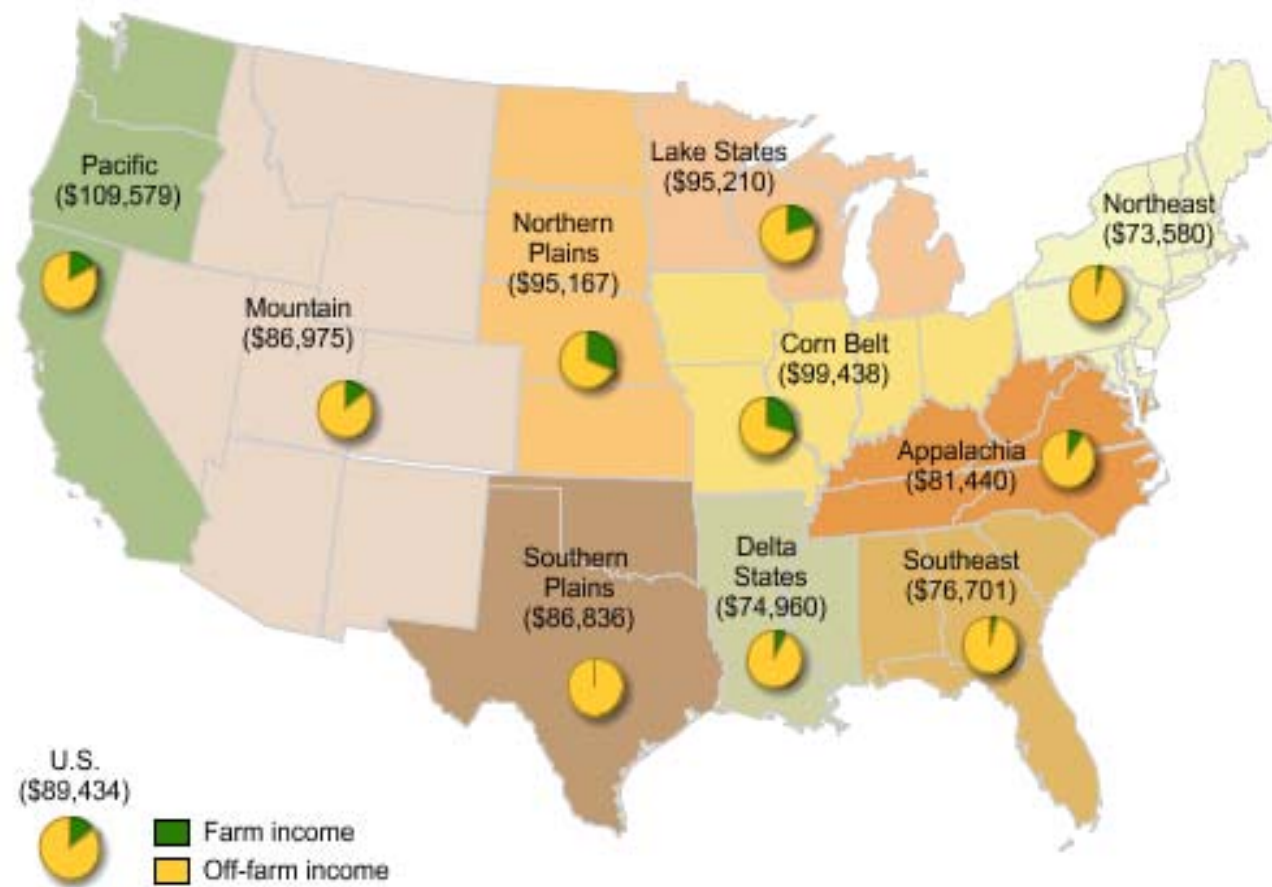


*Includes fruit, nuts, vegetables, greenhouse and nursery.

Source: 2006 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Economic Research Service, USDA. 2008 is forecast.

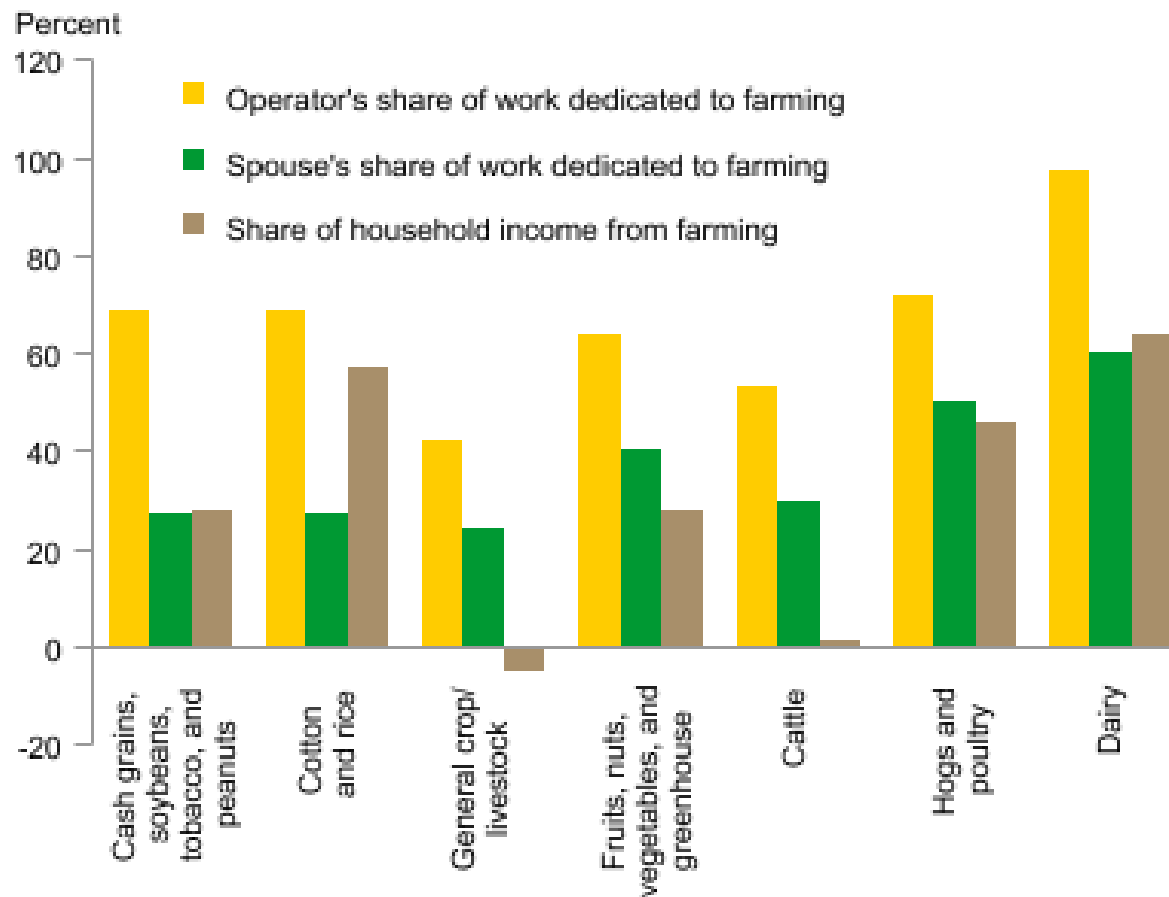
For data for 2002-08 see: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/WellBeing/Data/Table5FOHHincomebyfarmtype2002-08f.xls>

Household income and the relative contributions from farm and off-farm sources varies by region, 2008F







Source: 2006 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Economic Research Service, USDA.
2008 is forecast.

Work allocations compared to sources of income, 2006

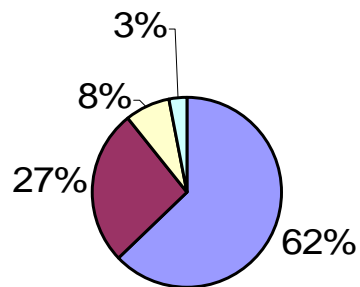


Source: 2006 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Economic Research Service, USDA.

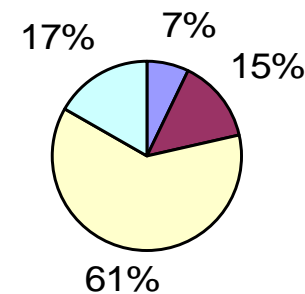
Distribution of farms, value of production and acres, 2006

-  Rural residence
-  Intermediate family
-  Large family
-  Nonfamily

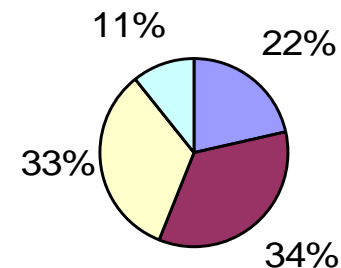
Farms



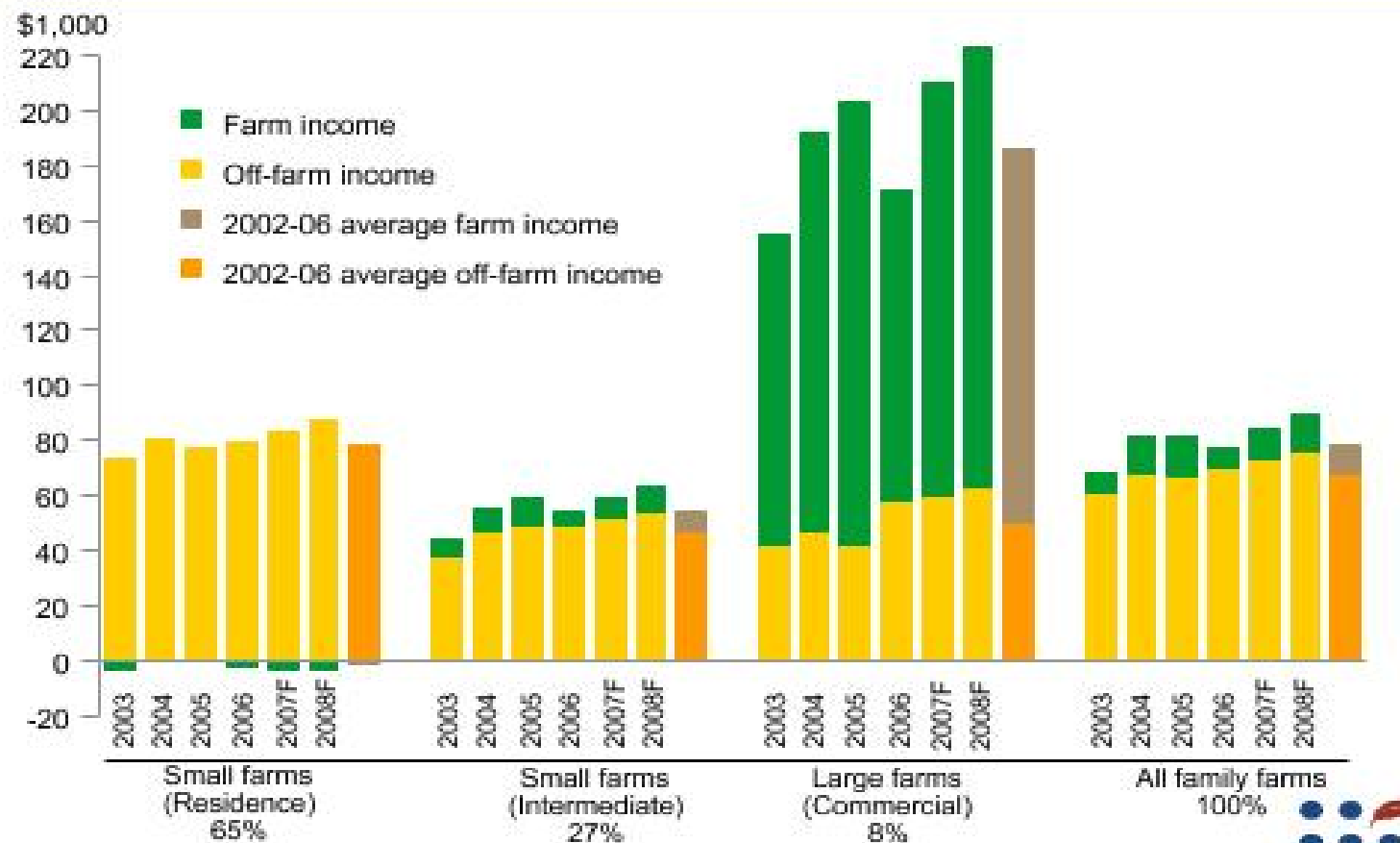
Value of production



Acres operated



Operators of commercial farms have highest and most variable average household income

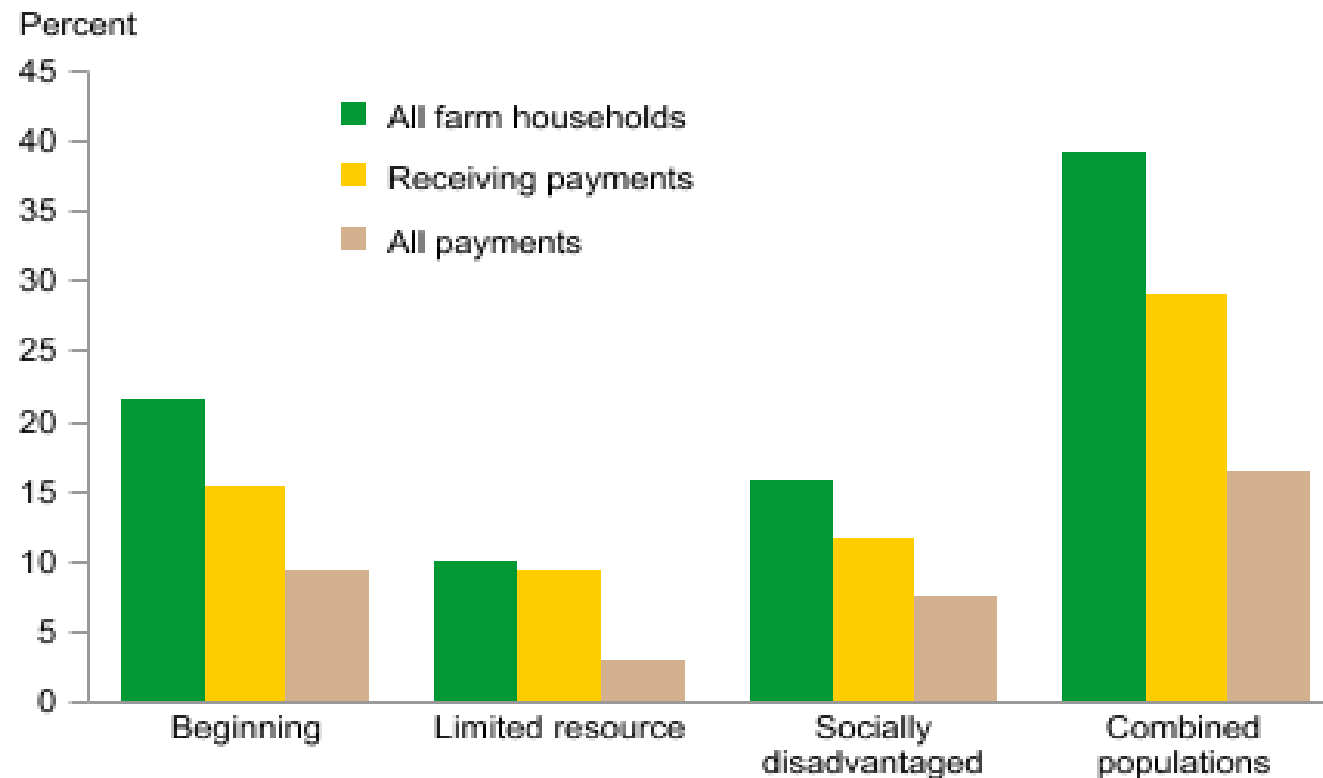


F = Forecast.

Source: Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Economic Research Service, USDA.

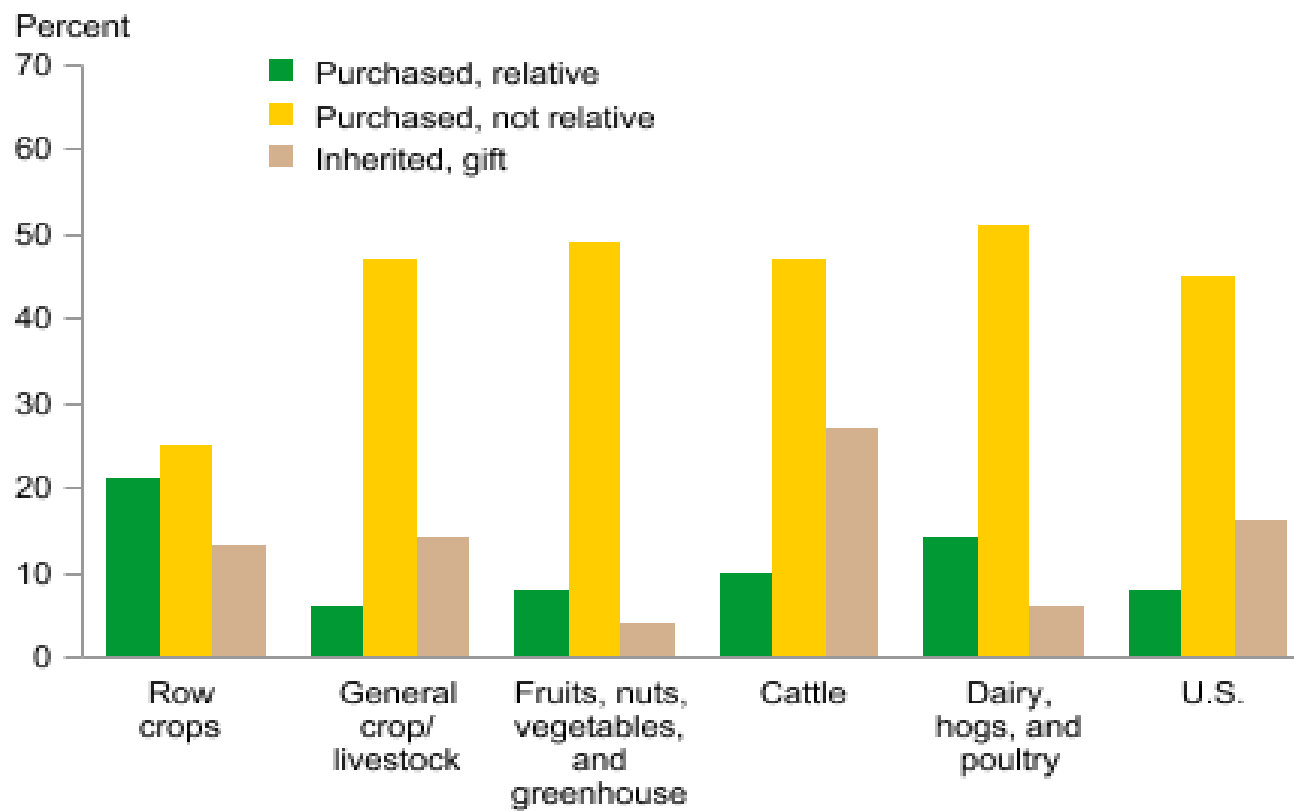


Farm populations targeted by USDA farm programs, 2006



Source: 2006 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Economic Research Service, USDA.

Sources of owned farm land for beginning family farmers, 2006

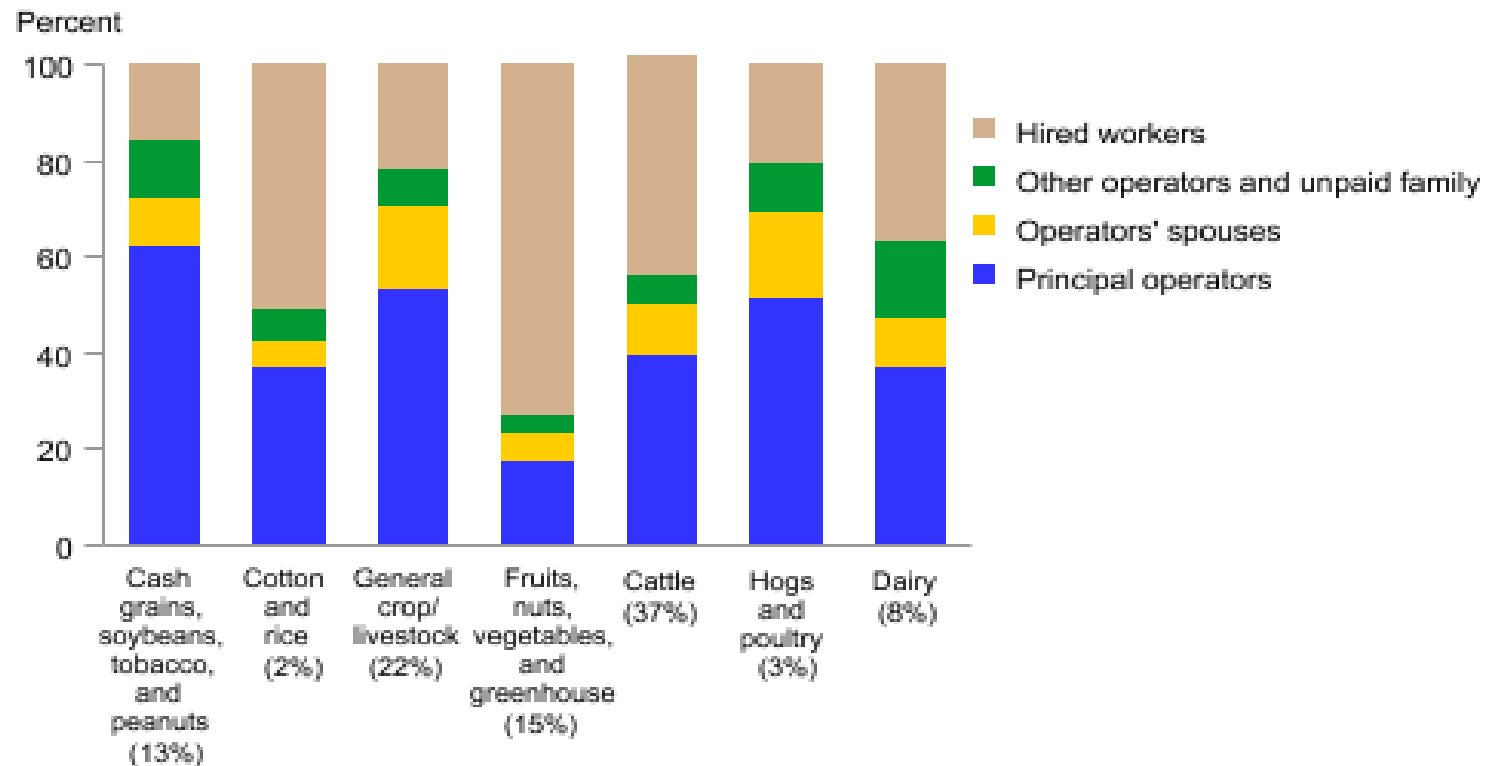


Source: 2006 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Economic Research Service, USDA.

Family farms

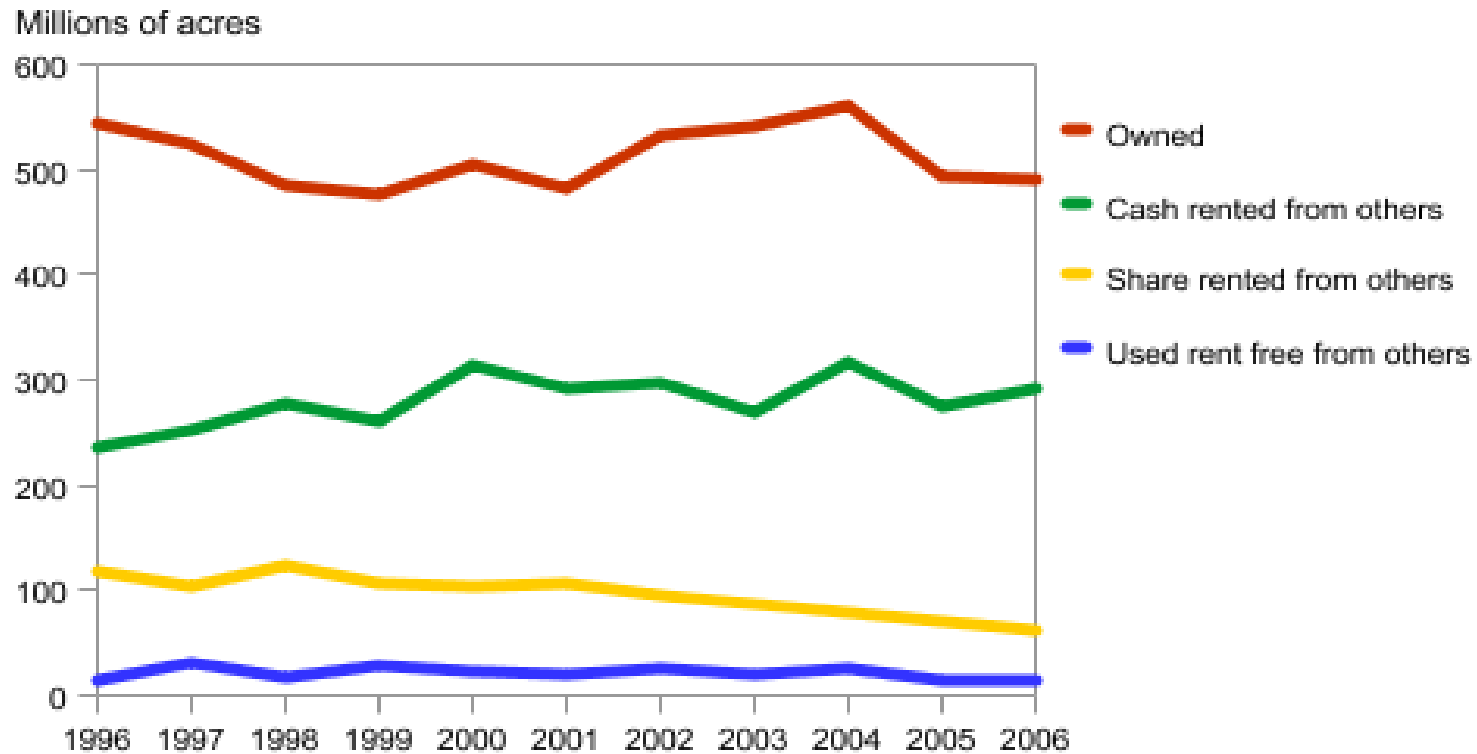
- Management
- Labor
- Land

Types of labor on U.S. family farms, 2006



Note: Number in parentheses represents the share of all agricultural labor in the U.S. used in that specialization.
Source: 2006 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Economic Research Service, USDA.

Total acres of land controlled by family farms, 1996-2006



Source: 1996-2006 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Economic Research Service, USDA.

Rental arrangements within the family

- Family farms rented in approximately 380.0 million acres in 2006. One-quarter of those were rented from family members.
- Family farms also rented out farm land to other farmers. In 2006, 55.1 million acres were in that class, and 19.3 percent of those rental arrangements were with other family members.

ERS Farm Household Briefing Room

- <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/WellBeing/>